



# Wisconsin Economic Update

September 20, 2016

## Summary

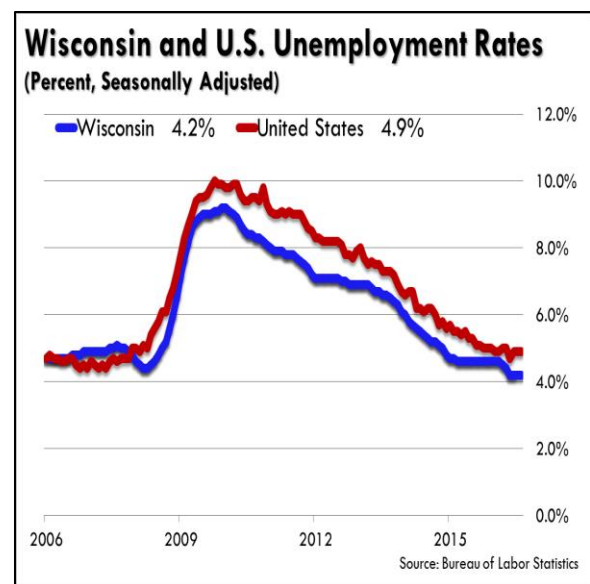
Nonfarm payroll employment in Wisconsin declined by 2,900 jobs, and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.2 percent in August according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## Wisconsin Unemployment Rate

During August, the unemployment rate in Wisconsin was unchanged at 4.2 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 1,157 in August to 131,141, while the labor force grew by 1,829 to 3,127,291. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 14 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Wisconsin. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Wisconsin stood at 4.6 percent.

The 10-year peak for the unemployment rate in Wisconsin was 9.2 percent in January 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in Wisconsin occurred in January 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 11.9 percent. The 10-year low for the unemployment rate in Wisconsin was 4.2 percent in August 2016. The series low for the unemployment rate in Wisconsin occurred in July 1999 when the unemployment rate was 3.0 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.9 percent in August. August's unemployment rate was 0.2 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The 10-year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The 10-year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



## Wisconsin Payroll Employment

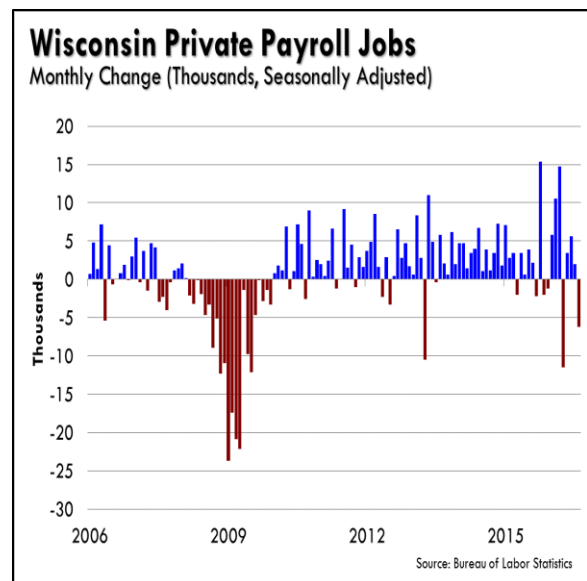
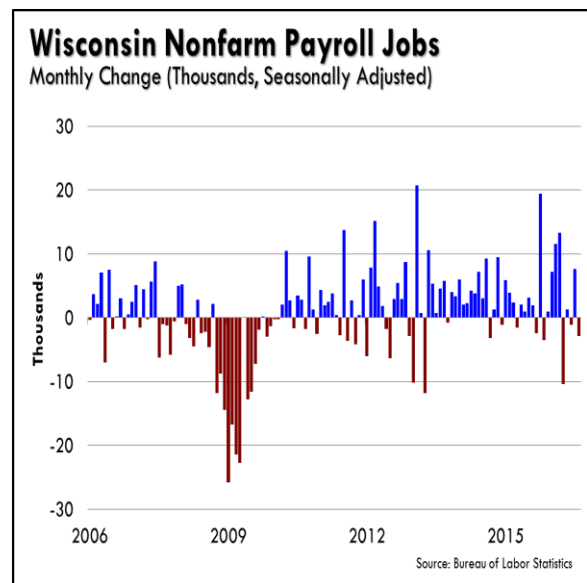
Wisconsin nonfarm payrolls declined by 2,900 jobs, or 0.10 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during August. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 7,600. Over the past 12 months, nonfarm payrolls in Wisconsin increased by 41,100, or 1.42 percent. Wisconsin nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 151,000 jobs in August, or 0.1 percent. Over the 12-month period ending August 2016, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,447,000 jobs, or 1.72 percent. Wisconsin ranks 27th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During August, Wisconsin private-sector payrolls declined by 6,200, or 0.25 percent. Private-sector payrolls increased by 2,000 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private-sector payrolls in Wisconsin increased by 34,300, or 1.38 percent. Wisconsin private-sector payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 126,000 jobs in August, or 0.1 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,283,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 1.9 percent. Wisconsin ranks 30th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During August, total government payroll employment in Wisconsin increased by 3,300, or 0.80 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 200, or 0.69 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 2,600, or 2.73 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 5,700, or 1.98 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 6,800, or 1.67 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 3,700, or 3.85 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 10,300, or 3.63 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during August were Total Government (+3,300) and Financial Activities (+900). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Manufacturing (-4,500) and Leisure & Hospitality (-1,800).

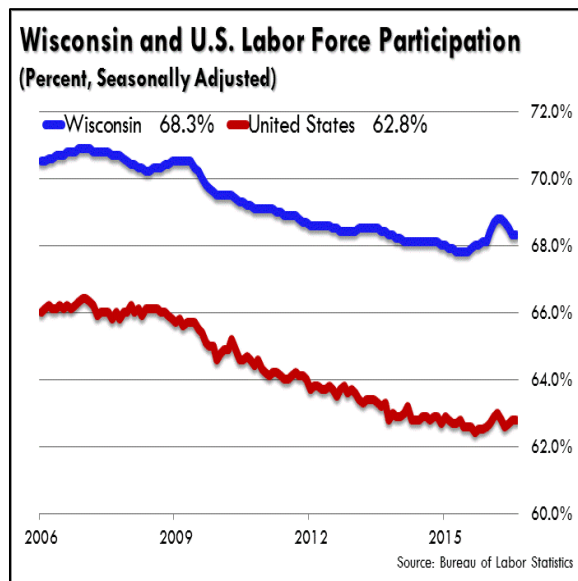
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+10,200) and Total Government (+6,800). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Mining & Logging (-500) and Information (-100).

#### Other Wisconsin Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Wisconsin was unchanged at 68.3 percent in August. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 7 have a higher labor force participation rate than Wisconsin. The labor force participation rate in Wisconsin is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Wisconsin was 70.9 percent in February 2007. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Wisconsin occurred in October 1997 when the labor force participation rate hit 74.8 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 67.8 percent in July 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in March 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 65.3 percent.

The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 62.8 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Wisconsin civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 65.4 percent in August from 65.5 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 8 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Wisconsin. The employment-to-population ratio in Wisconsin is 0.6 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Wisconsin was 67.4 percent in March 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Wisconsin occurred in December 1997 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 72.2 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.1 percent in February 2010. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in April 1983 when the employment-to-population ratio was 60.4 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio held steady at 59.7 percent in August. That rate was 0.3 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for September is scheduled for release on October 21, 2016. The national employment situation report for September will be released on Friday, October 7, 2016.

